GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:454
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is delaying the release of funds to the Universal Service Obligation Fund which is adversely affecting rural telephone service;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the funds provided by the Government in the USO Fund during the last 2 years;

(d) the details of actual demand; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide adequate funds?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 454 FOR 27TH APRIL, 2005 REGARDING UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND.

(a) to (c) Allocations have been released to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) from the year 2002-03. During the last two years, following amounts were provided to the fund:-

Year	Amount Allocated (Rs. In Crore)
2003-04	200.00
2004-05	1314.585

(d) The allocation of Rs. 200 crores and Rs. 1314.585 crores for the financial year 2003-04 and 2004-05 was against the demand of Rs. 200 crores and 2700 crores respectively.

(e) Statutory status has been given to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) by amending the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The USOF is a non-lapsable fund and is deemed to have come into effect from 1.4.2002. The credits to the USOF, by way of Parliamentary approval, include the sums of money received from Telecom Service Providers towards Universal Service Obligation and any grants & loans made by the Central Government.